



AAUW SUM
News & Views from the
West Chester – Chester County Branch

Volume 49, Number 4

January 2006

The Changing Roles of Women in Museum Work
Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 p.m. networking and dessert, 7:30 program
Grove United Methodist Church
490 West Boot Rd.
West Chester, PA 19380

Museums have changed dramatically in the past twenty years. They have evolved from an inward focus ("what we collect") to dynamic institutions that continually seek the intersection between their resources and the needs of their communities. This dramatic shift coincides with the wholesale entry of women into leadership positions in museums, and the creation of literally hundreds of new community-centered museums such as science centers and children's museums, often led by women and women's groups. These new museums have pioneered new ways of doing business that have shaped the entire profession. These are very exciting times for museums and for women in leadership roles in this vibrant community of institutions.

In recent years, women have assumed the helm of Ivy League universities and Fortune 500 companies, and started their own businesses in record numbers. What is it like to be a woman leader in a museum? Ann Mintz, President and CEO of the Chester County Historical Society, believes there are several elements to this equation: female leadership, non-profit, and museum. The result is much discussion about the nature of female leadership. This is the first element in the equation.

The second element is the non-profit organization, where leadership is intrinsically different from what it is in the private sector. Because of the nature of non-profit management, the demands that non-profits make on their leaders are particularly complex for women.

The third element relates to the particular sub-set of what is sometimes called the independent sector--not just any non-profit, but museums. In her talk, Ms. Mintz will focus primarily on this aspect of the equation—the element relating specifically to museums.

She has served in a variety of leadership positions in museums, including Executive Director of the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, MA, a 100-year-old museum of art, natural science and history; and is Founding Executive Director of the Science Center at the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg, where she master-planned and implemented a new science museum dedicated to the relationship of science and the arts. She currently serves on the boards of the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations and several national museum associations.

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The next issue of AAUW Sum will be the February issue. Deadline is January 12.

Branch News

Reaching Out--by Graham Boose

2006!! Wow! How quickly 2005 has sped by. I want to thank you all for your support, your great ideas and your willingness to explore new ones, your teamwork, and your enthusiasm for our West Chester-Chester County Branch programs and activities for the past year. Truly, you are an inspiration to me! AND I want to ask you to consider, as one of your 2006 resolutions, a commitment to find an even more active spot in the branch to help forward our agenda of equity for all women and girls throughout their lifetimes, regardless of where they may live. **Please say “yes” to the Nominating Committee—or perhaps even (shudder!) volunteer for a leadership position and become actively engaged in an interest group or other branch activity.**

If you need info or a ride, let me or Membership Vice President Barbara Leone know. If you are too busy for branch involvement, let us know what you’re doing at home and in the community—those are critical efforts! As this issue of *AAUW Sum* goes to press, I continue to be impressed with how branch members are involved in the life of the Chester County community—see the article on our members in local government—and how well Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor describes the lives of many of us during the past half-century. She did not call it a “juggling act,” as I do, but rather discussed the improvisational aspects of modern life. “These methods have not had to be elegant – they’ve just had to work.”

She mentions, too, that she felt she had no time as a young working mother for herself; I hope you have learned to make a commitment to yourselves, for, if we don’t honor ourselves, then we have few resources and energy to share with others. Many of you have shared with me how the friends and interest groups of the branch have helped you here, as they have helped me. Several members of the Program Committee are actively engaged in working with the Chester County Fund for Women and Girls and with the League of Women Voters of Chester County to pull together our exciting

March program on the research efforts of the Fund to define the Chester County needs of women and girls. **We will need group facilitators and visionary members with knowledge of existing county programs to make this evening a success and to lay the foundation for solutions to some of the identified problems.** If you can help, please contact Fran Pierce.

As I review the past few months, I want to particularly thank **Nancy and Dick Newman** for hosting our holiday party; **Barbara McIlvaine Smith** for chairing the holiday party and for developing our new membership flyer; **Ann Fife** and **Joyce Marr** for their ground-breaking efforts in branch website design and teleconference implementation; **Sebronette Barnes** for introducing us to the new American opera *Margaret Garner* and sharing the resources of Cheyney University with us; the members of the Program Committee who have arranged our outstanding programs to date: **Hilary Kennedy, Cathy Palmquist, Fran Pierce, Sybil Schwartz, and Donna Eaves** for making our interesting membership programs realities; **Diane Nescio, Sandi Kwisz, Barbara Leone, and Dorothy Ward** for their energetic participation at the YWCA of Chester County Let’s Read Math program; **Leslie Olson** for revising the bylaws to include new membership requirements; **Nancy Dore**, Financial Officer, for keeping our accounts straight; **Sandi Kwisz** for accurately keeping Board minutes and chairing the Ways and Means Committee,

(Continued on page 6)

AAUW Sum is the newsletter of the West Chester-Chester County PA Branch of the American Association of University Women. It is normally published 8 times each year: September, October, November, January, February, March, April, and May. Deadline for copy is the 12th of the month preceding. Deadline for January is December 1.

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Branch News

Preview of Coming Attractions!!**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, February 11, 2006**

Our February branch meeting will again be a very special celebration at the Coatesville Cultural Society. At 10:30 a.m. we will enjoy a performance of *The Lyrics of Love and Laughter*, based on the poetry of Paul Laurence Dunbar, the first Black writer to gain worldwide recognition as a poet. The actors, through Dunbar's poetry, portray the humor, joy and hardship of daily life in the rural antebellum South. Following the performance, we will enjoy a delicious lunch and socialization. This event will be open to the public, so plan to bring a guest (or two). More details and a reservation form will appear in the February newsletter.

Donna Eaves, Facilitator

Financial Report (As of November 30, 2005)

Checking Account \$ 4,623.80
Savings Account 713.61

Chester County Community Foundation:
Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund 20,757.68
Let's Read Math (from Verizon) 4,875.00

Fund Balances:

Let's Read Math 322.72
Members Helping Members 209.00

--Nancy Dore, Financial Officer

Please consider giving to the Let's Read Math project or to the Alice Lawson Scholarship Fund, both of which are 501 (c)(3) funds. Details available from Nancy Dore.

Helping Members, supports dues payments for members who are in temporary financial need. These checks may be forwarded to Nancy Dore, with the memo annotation "Members Helping Members."

In addition, our new line item, Members

Ways & Means Update

This fall's New York City Bus Trip was a fun-filled day of museums, plays, shopping and sight seeing. We are appreciative of **Stanli Cushman** for arranging the trip and handling many of the details needed to make the trip possible. We also extend our thanks to **Nancy Dore** and **Joyce Marr** for their assistance on the day of the trip. The bus trip resulted in a profit of \$369.65 for our branch.

Branch members took advantage of our annual Book Fair at the Chester County Book and Music Company to do some early holiday shopping. A total of \$219.97 profit was made for the Local Scholarship Fund which benefits a local, non-traditional student. Our appreciation to **Leslie Olson** for coordinating this annual event. A special thanks to **Kathy Simonoux**, of the Chester County Book and Music Company, and her staff for their continued support.

And a very warm thank you to all of our members for participating in the fund-raisers and events throughout the year. Your support makes it possible to fund our annual local scholarship and to contribute \$250 to the Educational Foundation (EF) and \$250 to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) this year. In addition, many of the costs needed to operate our branch: printing, postage, insurance, honorariums, special awards, meetings and conventions are supplemented by our fund-raisers.

If you would like to become more involved with fund-raising activities for our branch, please call me at 610-793-3135 or Graham at 610-431-7701. I am happy to report that **Nancy Dore** has agreed to chair this important committee after she steps down as Financial Officer in May. However, we are always looking for new fund raisers and active committee members.

I particularly want to thank **Jane Schultz** for several years of commitment to the escript fund raiser with Genuardis. Thanks, Jane, for setting it up and seeing it to success! Proceeds benefit our Local Scholarship Fund.

---Sandi Kwisz

Branch News

PA Governor's Conference Attracts Branch Members

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell and the Pennsylvania Commission on Women sponsored the second annual Governor's Conference for Women at the Pennsylvania Convention Center on November 15, 2005. Several branch members attended last year, and even more attended this year. I asked every member whom I saw to contribute their impressions and comments. I hope you will find them informational and will consider attending next year.

AAUW-PA was a sponsor this year, and our booth was a welcoming and informative one, complete with information from our own Membership Committee and Let's Read Math project. Many of us volunteered as conference helpers to defray the registration cost, and you will read about some of these experiences, also.—*Graham Boose*

From Fran Pierce

This year's Second Annual Governor's Conference for Women exceeded all the expectations of the planners. More than 4500 women from all over the state attended! While that number did cause a bit of crowding at group functions, several committee members said that they are learning as they "grow"!

I served as a volunteer and was assigned to be a "human arrow" for the luncheon seating. Barbara Leone and I laughed as we practiced our "pointer" stances! The women were most cooperative and eager to get seats to hear the esteemed luncheon speaker, Madeleine Albright, first woman Secretary of State of the United States.

Her address was warm and personal, and she encouraged other women to try things that they might not think they can do. I was especially moved by Dr. Albright's statement that "There is not a hot enough place in Hell for women who do not help other women!"

I hope that I can attend next year, although it is expected to take place in Pittsburgh -- maybe AAUW can get a trip together for a group to go!

From Barbara Leone

This day-long program was a potpourri of food for thought as well as body. There was so much to see and do--a true sensory overload! The morning and afternoon sessions provided a chance to explore the needs and interests of Pennsylvania women and opportunities to energize and empower women to reach their highest potential. The keynote speakers, Madeleine Albright and Sandra Day O'Connor, motivated and encouraged all in attendance to seek to improve the opportunities for equity for all women.

While volunteering at the AAUW-PA booth in the large exhibit hall, I enjoyed exchanging ideas with many other AAUW members, as well as other participants at the convention. Our branch made available the newly designed membership brochures as well as an information sheet on our Let's Read Math branch program. It was a busy day and a most worthwhile experience.

From Dorothy Ward

...Lydia Cruz, "our leader" was at the desk...put us to work right away handing out pamphlets at the entrance to the Keynote Speakers Room main entrance. That was very nice because we could hear the keynote speaker Lisa Ling. She was very interesting. When we finished there, we were sent to the Main Entrance to hand out the bags to those attending the Conference. We were then sent off for lunch. Again we were lucky and got to hear Madeleine Albright. She was wonderful.

When we went back for our next assignment, Lydia asked if one of us would escort a blind woman and her guide dog for the afternoon session. I volunteered and enjoyed escorting Jennifer and her guide dog. Once again, because of the lack of, or poorly placed, direction signs it was very confusing finding the different Session rooms. (Continued on page 5)

Branch News

Impressions from the Governor's Conference (contd.)

We did manage to find Jennifer's choice, *Making Dreams Come True*. She was very happy with the presenter, Marcia Wieder.

After the session we met up with Barbara, and took Jennifer to hear Sandra Day O'Connor. She was excellent! Barbara and I then walked Jennifer and her wonderful dog outside. After our goodbye hugs we put them in the direction of the train station. Though it was confusing finding the different rooms, it was enjoyable hearing the speakers and visiting the Exhibitors Booths.

However, I was most impressed that Lydia, and her helpers were caring enough to reach out and help a blind person see through the eyes of a volunteer. It was a very gratifying experience.

From Joyce Marr

I did go to the conference last year and attended again this year. I was overwhelmed with the number of attendees--from 3000 in 2004 to 4700 in 2005. Wow!! The guest speakers were strong, productive role models. I took nuggets of inspiration and/or information from each and every one of these amazing women--from Madeleine Albright, Lisa Ling, the First Lady of Pennsylvania, and, most especially, Donna Brazile, and Sara Taylor. I want to go back next year!!

From Yvonne Peiffer

Just attending a conference with this number of women is empowering in itself. The personalities were so diverse in terms of how the women presented themselves -- from low key and factual/interesting to full blown and factual/funny. Saw other women not from AAUW that knew me and came up to say "hi." So those who attended were quite diverse as well and fit my description of the keynoters.

Further, some of the attendees were just recognizing their ability to "act" and were a little rough around the edges when they did not address the questions to the content of the workshop we were in (yet they can still be a catalyst for action right now). Some had run for office and lost and needed to be refueled with hope. All needed the message that voting at every election and getting involved in campaigns personally or for another candidate, and keeping tabs on our legislators after they are voted into office, are all very important functions for all citizens -- but especially women.

Let's Read Math Returns to YWCA Chester County



Branch volunteers enjoy some holiday goof-off time after an afternoon reading and teaching math skills at the Y.



Skip counting, or counting by 2's, 5's, 10's, etc., was the theme recently after a lively discussion of *The King's Commissioners*. The program is funded by the branch, the AAUW Educational Foundation, and Verizon.

Branch and Community News

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Keynotes Conference

“I have seen a revolution in the opportunities for women...”

*U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was a keynote speaker at the Pennsylvania Governor's Conference for Women, held in Philadelphia, on November 15th. The following is a summary of her remarks, reprinted from the **Philadelphia Inquirer**.*

“I've had rather a long life. As I look back on that rather long life now, I have seen a revolution in the opportunities for women. ... Today, young women are expected to have – and they do have – a direct influence on public affairs. There are more women in public offices, in state and national legislative and executive positions than ever before; there are more women candidates for public office at all levels of government than ever. ... A woman president is a realistic expectation today. ...

As large numbers of women have entered the workforce and have occupied positions in politics and business and the professions, we've had to make some changes in how our families are run, how jobs are designed, and in our cultural and in our institutional attitudes toward women. ... We've had to improvise solutions at times. And these methods have not had to be elegant – they've just had to work. ... It's hard to do all those things, to take care of children, and spouses, and a household, and make things run, and also do your job. I found that there was never any time in my life for personal things. There was no time for sitting around, eating a Hershey's chocolate, and reading a book. ... Every minute was accounted for in every day, and that's probably how your lives are as well. One change that I have seen since I was a working mother with young children is that husbands and fathers today, the young men, are much more willing to take on part of the task of taking care of the children. I've had

women law clerks whose husbands have taken the year off to take care of their children so they could be a clerk. So we've learned as we've gone along how to improvise. ... We're going to be learning all our lives. I still am. There isn't a day that I'm [not] learning something new. And you should take a little comfort in that, because even though our problems may seem immense sometimes, we have time to learn how to deal with them. Women live longer these days than we used to, and I think we do have time to figure out the answers....

I hope that all of you will ... spend part or all of your lives in some form of public service. These efforts can call for sacrifice, sometimes emotional, almost always financial, sometimes personal. Those who choose the life of public service open themselves to public review, and that's not always pleasant. ... But the ever-present understanding that you're part of something bigger than yourself, and that your efforts are paving the way for those who will follow, does make work in public service worth the bumps along the way.”

Reaching Out (Contd.)

and all the other members of the Board and Special Interest Group leaders and members for continuing to make this such a vibrant branch. Special thanks to **Pam Gallimore**, AAUW Sum editor, who does an AWESOME job in getting our newsletter out each month and to **Cathy Palmquist**, who mails it. AND, I'm sure I've unintentionally overlooked several of you—my apologies.

Vita Abundator, the life more abundant, is the motto of my undergraduate college. A challenge as we progress through our life journeys and my hope for each of you in the coming year. All good wishes.

Branch and Community News

Branch Promotes New American Opera, *Margaret Garner* in February

Branch member Dr. Sebronette Barnes is singing in the Philadelphia Opera Company's production of *Margaret Garner* in February. For car pool information to the matinee on Sunday, February 26, contact Donna Eaves.



Michael Bolton, of the Philadelphia Opera Company, and Dr. Sebronette Barnes, member of the Program Committee and branch Diversity Chair, enjoy a moment of relaxation at the November meeting at Cheyney University. Mr. Bolton discussed the history and music of the new American opera *Margaret Garner*, with libretto by Toni Morrison and music by Richard Danielpour. Sebronette arranged for the presentation, as well as for the performance piece by noted storyteller Charlotte Blake Alson *Introducing Margaret Garner*, also at Cheyney, which several branch members enjoyed on December.

Members Serve on *Women in Government Panel* by Cathy Palmquist

AAUW members, Rachel Mullin and Barbara McIlvaine Smith were two of the six panelists who spoke on their experiences at the Women In Government (WIG) event sponsored by the Chester County Women's Commission (CCWC) on November 30 at the Chester County Historical Society. Over 85 women (and 2 men) attended the two- hour event, listening to the interesting tales of how/why the women got involved in government/politics. All six women were outstanding!
(Continued on p. 8)

**AAUW PA Awards Grant to Branch, Includes Two Free Memberships
By Barbara Leone,
Membership Vice-President**

Recently our branch was selected as a winner of the PA 2006 Membership Grant for submitting a comprehensive multifaceted plan to recruit new members. Future plans include setting up a branch web site and a special event at the March 14, 2006 branch meeting where we will meet with members of other Chester County women's organizations in an effort to address issues and identify needs of women and girls in the community. Our branch has been awarded two free memberships (National & State) for 2006-07. The Membership Committee is seeking suggestions for attracting recipients for these two award memberships. ***We need your input!*** Please give your suggestions to any member of the Board or contact Barbara Leone, Membership VP.

At the March 14 special event (*Chester County Fund for Women and Girls: The Blueprint Project*) we will have an additional opportunity to redeem one free membership for every two new members who join that night or within 2 weeks following the event. In addition the people who join then will have **discounted dues** for one year as part of the *Shape the Future* program from National. Mark your calendars (March 14, 2006), plan to attend and bring a guest to this special event.

Let's not keep our desire for new members a secret! Every member needs to spread the word.

Branch and Community News

Branch Members in *Women in Government* (Continued)

Other AAUW women who attended this interesting, non-partisan event were Peg Anderson, Diane Nescio, Martina Ossman, Fran Pierce and Cathy Palmquist (Fran and Cathy are also past CCWC members.) AAUW founder/former member, Elinor Z. Taylor, was honored with the CCWC's pioneering award for her years of leadership in Harrisburg. It's anticipated this

event will be repeated next year, since there is great interest in women becoming more involved in government offices and decision making positions. Rachel and Barbara did a wonderful job and were fine representatives of the outstanding women in our AAUW branch (and both mentioned their affiliation with AAUW)!

SAVE the DATES

Branch Board Meetings

Members are invited to attend. All Board meetings are held at the West Goshen Township Municipal Building. Community Room, first floor. The building is located at 1025 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380, 610-696-5266. It is the northeast corner of the intersection of Route 202 and Paoli Pike.
 Tuesday: January 3, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday February 7, 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, June 6, 7:00 p.m. Joint Board meeting.

NON-BRANCH AAUW MEETINGS Philadelphia Branch Meeting

Philadelphia Branch AAUW
 Invites You to Enjoy
 An Evening with Wil Dijk
 Author/Historian
 International Observer of Women & Women's
 Issues

January 9, 2006 5:30
 Aldar restaurant Bala Cynwyd
 \$25 for dinner
 Details available from Graham,
 GDBoose@comcast.net

Inter-Branch Council Event

It's a Birthday—Ben Franklin's 300th!!
Saturday, March 4, the Philadelphia Area AAUW Inter-Branch Council will sponsor a visit to the National Constitution Center in downtown Philadelphia to see the Benjamin Franklin exhibit *Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World*. The exhibit is organized by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary and is a blockbuster exhibition created to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Philadelphia's favorite founding father.
 We're scheduled to arrive at 9:45 to start a 10 a.m. tour, Ben's exhibit is about 1 1/2 hours and *Freedom Rising*, a film, is 30 minutes. We'll have lunch after this, those details to follow.—Judy Peter, Makefield Area Branch, Chairperson.

- International Women's Day: March 8, 2006, to increase visibility of AAUW in PA
- AAUW Middle Atlantic Region (MAR): March 18-19, 2006, Bethlehem, PA
- PA-AAUW-PA State Convention: March 30-April 3, 2006, Johnstown, PA
- Association Convention: Phoenix, AZ, June 29-July 2, 2007 (it is every two years)

Branch News

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**Bridge**

Women's Social Bridge Women's Social Bridge will be held on January 17, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the homes of members. Contact Evelyn Love if you wish to play bridge, 610-719-0822, evelynlove@mindspring.com

Couples Bridge Couples Bridge will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of a member. Contact Evelyn Love if you wish to play bridge, 610-719-0822, evelynlove@mindspring.com

Book and Discussion Groups

Lit IV, Monday Evening Nonfiction Book Group will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 16, 2006 at 7:00 PM at the Magnolia Grill, Chester County Book and Music Company, West Goshen Shopping Center. We will celebrate the tercentenary of Benjamin Franklin's birth by discussing a biography of him. Two suggested titles are Benjamin Franklin, *An American Life* by Walter Isaacson and *The First American; the Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin* by H.W. Brands. Both books and many others are available in county libraries. Call Paula McGinness, 610-942-4852, with questions.

Lit III, Wednesday Evening Book Group, Fiction and Nonfiction will meet on Wednesday, January 18, 7:30 p.m. for dessert. The book being discussed is *The Kite Runner* by Khalik Housseini. Host: Harriet Jarosh. 610-692-4060. The meeting begins promptly at 8:00 p.m. Please call the host if you plan to attend.

Lit II, Thursday Evening Book Group, Fiction and Nonfiction will meet January 19, 2006, 7:30 p.m. for refreshments, 8:00 p.m. for book review. *When the Emperor was Divine* by J. Otsuka. Host: Evelyn Love, Leader: M.A. Kilpatric. Please call the host if you plan to attend or call Donna Eaves at 610-692-5277 for further information.

Great Decisions will meet on January 9, 2006, 7:30 p.m. Host: Harriot Jarosh, leader: Jacky Paige, the topic: "U.S. Intelligence Reform." Please call Jacky Paige, 610-359-9887 if you plan to attend.

Finance Study Group, Wednesday Evening, Research and Discussion of Financial Topics of Interest

The Finance Group will meet on January 18, 2006, 7 p.m. at the Chester County Book Company. "What's likely to happen to Social security?" will be the topic. The discussion will be led by Kathryn Retallick. All AAUW members are welcome to attend any meeting where the topic interests them. For additional information, contact Leslie Olson, Chair. olsonfour@aol.com or 610-793-2938.

Saturday, February 11. at the Coatesville Cultural Society

Show and Lunch—guests welcome
See page 3.

Margaret Garner, the new American Opera, Matinee February 26

Several members are attending the matinee in Philadelphia on Sunday, February 26. If you want to car pool, call Donna Eaves.

AAUW Sum by email?

Yep, that would be terrific! If you are interested, let Graham know:

GDBoose@comcast.net



Happy New Year!



AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
UNIVERSITY
WOMEN

West Chester-Chester County PA Branch
415 Sunset Hollow Rd.
West Chester, PA 19380

***JANUARY 2006
NEWSLETTER***

AAUW Mission Statement

The AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.

AAUW Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

AAUW West Chester – Chester County Branch Vision Statement

The West Chester-Chester County Branch will

- Actively recruit members who support Association goals.
- Nurture these members through active Interest Groups, through monthly meetings with intellectual and social merit, and through member support.
- Sponsor at least one project per year with volunteers and with funds to promote Association and branch goals.
- Sponsor at least one local scholarship per year for a nontraditional student
- Support programs for training and self-development of branch members to promote Association goals.
- Raise funds through community projects and member gifts to support Association goals.

Since its first meeting in 1881, AAUW has been a catalyst for change. Today, with more than 100,000 members, 1,300 branches, and 500 college and university partners, AAUW contributes to a more promising future and provides a powerful voice for women and girls—a voice that cannot and will not be ignored.

www.aauw.org www.aauwpa.org